

CENTER FOR ART LAW PRESENTS

# ART & LAW WORKSHOP: MORAL RIGHTS IN PRACTICE



with **Christopher Robinson**,  
Of Counsel,  
Rottenberg Lipman Rich

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2025**

12:00 PM ET | ONLINE

[itsartlaw.org](http://itsartlaw.org)



Workshop

## ART & LAW WORKSHOP: MORAL RIGHTS IN PRACTICE

Moral rights give artists the ability to protect both their authorship and the integrity of their work. They determine whether an artist can be credited properly, and whether their work can be altered, destroyed, or presented in ways that might harm their reputation. While European law provides broad and longstanding protections, the U.S. framework, largely through the Visual Artists Rights Act (VARA), is much more limited and has been defined case by case.

Join the Center for Art Law as we welcome Christopher Robinson, an art dealer and attorney who brings valuable insight from both the art market and the courtroom. Robinson served as co-counsel in the 5Pointz case, a landmark decision that brought significant attention to moral rights in the United States and his writing has been quoted in numerous court decisions dealing with artists rights. Drawing on that case and other examples, he will discuss how moral rights function in practice, the limitations of VARA, and the impact of these protections on artists today.

This event is part of the Center for Art Law's Visual Artists Legal Clinic programming.

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER



### CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON

Chris practices art law and intellectual property law, in addition to serving clients requiring general commercial litigation. A former art dealer, he brings a practical knowledge of the art world to his practice of art law. His clients for both litigation and transactional matters include dealers, artists, art advisors, museums, auction houses, appraisers, art foundations, collectors, restorers, developers and publishers. He is outside legal counsel to the Private Art Dealers Association and the New Art Dealers Alliance, and he has spoken widely on art issues, in particular on stolen art, consignment fraud, forgeries, copyright and moral rights, public art, dealer transactions, and artists' rights. Chris also has extensive experience in copyright licensing and litigation, and gray-market goods enforcement and litigation. His practice includes trademark, unfair competition and false advertising, as well as libel defense and the First Amendment. He also represents clients with respect to privacy law and compliance with sanctions regulations promulgated by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

Chris earned his J.D. from Fordham University School of Law where he was Editor in Chief of Law Review. He pursued post-graduate work in Art History at the Courtauld Institute, London and has a B.A. and M.A. from Oriel College, Oxford University.

# RESOURCES

## General Guidance

- *Artist's Guide to the Visual Artists Rights Act*, Intellectual Property and Business Formation Legal Clinic Washington University in St. Louis School of Law (2005).
- Chandler, Akilah, *Moral Rights: The Economic Ramifications of Moral Rights Under VARA in the U.S.* MA Theses. 9 (2018).
- Fashanu, Tokunbo & Schmidt, Julianne, *Pre & Post VARA: A Study of the Protection of Public Art*, Center for Art Law (June 29, 2022).
- Forscher, Sharon, *The Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990*, Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (2008).
- Grant, Daniel, *Has a US law created to safeguard artists' work backfired?*, The Art Newspaper (2024).
- *Moral Rights in U.S. Copyright Law*, Copyrightlaws (2023).
- Richardson, Laura, *The Making of the Moral Rights Case: The Factual and Legal Background of the 5Pointz Trial*, Center for Art Law (Nov. 5, 2017).
- Tarsis, Irina, *Moral Rights of the Artist: A US Perspective*, The Art Law Review.
- Robinson, Christopher J., *Art Commission Agreements and VARA Moral Rights*, Rottenberg, Lipman, Rich.
- Robinson, Christopher J., *VARA and the Conservation Profession*, AIC News (May 2020).
- Robinson, Christopher J., interview by Kameron-Jai Keel, August 7, 2023, *Interview with Christopher Robinson, Esq. about VARA (The Visual Artists Rights Act)*, Center for Art Law, August 7, 2023.
- Robinson, Christopher J., *The Recognized Stature Standard in the Visual Artists Rights Act*, Fordham L. Rev. 68 (1999).

## Statute

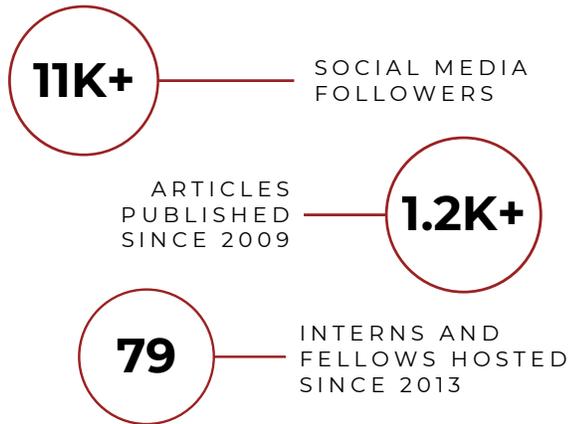
- Visual Artists' Rights Act (17 U.S.C. § 106A)

## Cases

- *Carter v. Helmsley-Spear, Inc.*, 71 F.3d 77 (2d Cir. 1995)
- *Castillo v. G&M Realty L.P.*, 950 F.3d 155 (2020)
- *Cohen v. G&M Realty L.P.*, 320 F.Supp. 3d 421, 448 (E.D.N.Y. 2018)
- *Pottier v. Hotel Plaza, Inc.*, 379 F.Supp.3d 130 (D.Puerto Rico 2019)
- *Kerson v. Vermont Law School, Inc.*, 79 F.4thth 257 (2d Cir. 2023)
- *Martin v. City of Indianapolis*, 192 F.3d 608 (7th Cir. 1999).

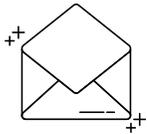
The [Center for Art Law](#) is a New York-based research and education nonprofit that offers resources and programming for the advancement of a vibrant arts and law community. Through its website and popular monthly *Art Law Blast* newsletter, the Center disseminates information and keeps readers updated on art law-related news, events, cases, and publications. It facilitates conversations by hosting and participating in conferences, workshops, clinics, screenings, and more.

Today a world-renowned asset to the art law field, the Center serves artists, attorneys, students, and scholars of related disciplines, art market professionals, and members of the general public.



## GET INVOLVED

There are many ways to support the Center for Art Law to ensure that we continue our important work for the art law community, from hosting legal clinics and accessible programs to keeping our newsletter free.



### Subscribe to the Art Law Blast

Get the Center's free newsletter for a monthly summary of all things art law and other news and event announcement directly into your inbox.

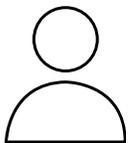
[itsartlaw.org/newsletter](https://itsartlaw.org/newsletter)



### Make a Gift

Support the Center for Art Law by making a donation or check if your employer has a matching donation program.

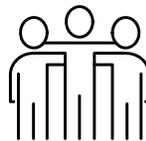
[itsartlaw.org/donate](https://itsartlaw.org/donate)



### Become a Member

Join our worldwide community and receive unlimited access to the Case Law Corner and over 1,000 articles, along with discounted admission to select Center for Art Law events. Starting at \$6.00/month.

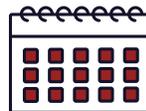
[itsartlaw.org/membership](https://itsartlaw.org/membership)



### Become a Corporate Sponsor

Make a difference and get exposure to your business by sponsoring the Center's projects.

[itsartlaw.org/sponsorship](https://itsartlaw.org/sponsorship)



### Join our Events

Check out our calendar of upcoming programs, featuring many experts, attorneys, and professionals with a shared interest in art law.

[itsartlaw.org/events](https://itsartlaw.org/events)



### Find us on Social Media

Join our network on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.  
@centerforartlaw

Contact us at: [artlawteam@itsartlaw.org](mailto:artlawteam@itsartlaw.org)

195 Plymouth Street, Suite 3-6 Feldeggstrasse 35  
Brooklyn, NY 11201 8008 Zürich  
UNITED STATES SWITZERLAND

[www.itsartlaw.org](http://www.itsartlaw.org)